

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 428

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TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SF, US

SUBJ: 31ST UNGA PLENARY: APARTHEID

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ON APARTHEID DELIVERED BY
MR. STEPHEN HESS IN PLENARY, MORNING NOVEMBER 3.

QTE: THIS YEAR'S DEBATE ON APARTHEID TAKES PLACE IN THE
LENGTHENING SHADOW OF CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE IN SOUTH
AFRICA.

OVER 300 LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST. COUNTLESS OTHERS HAVE BEEN
INJURED. HUNDREDS MORE HAVE BEEN DETAINED, MANY FOR NO
REASONS OTHER THAN THAT THEY OPPOSE APARTHEID. THE PEOPLE
OF THE UNITED STATES MOURN WITH THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR
BRAVE YOUNG FRIENDS AND CHILDREN.

THE POSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR BY
SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER IN A SPEECH IN
PHILADELPHIA ON AUGUST 31 WHEN HE SAID:

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"SOUTH AFRICA'S INTERNAL STRUCTURE IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH

ANY CONCEPT OF HUMAN DIGNITY. WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE RECENT AND CONTINUING CLASHES IN BLACK URBAN TOWNSHIPS, UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA. THEY ARE DRAMATIC EVIDENCE OF THE FRUSTRATION OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS TOWARD A SYSTEM WHICH DENIES THEM STATUS, EQUALITY AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. NO SYSTEM THAT LEADS TO POLITICAL UPHEAVALS AND VIOLENCE CAN POSSIBLY BE JUST OR ACCEPTABLE - NOR CAN IT LAST.

"THE UNITED STATES MUST BE TRUE TO ITS OWN BELIEFS. WE URGE SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE CONSCIENCE OF HUMANITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE ALL OUR INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA."

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT WAVERED FROM THIS POSITION, NOR WILL IT. IN TAKING THIS POSITION, WE RECOGNIZE THAT NO NATION OR POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN CLAIM A PERFECT RECORD IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE ARE ALL TOO KEENLY AWARE THAT RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN BEING IS DECLINING IN TOO MANY COUNTRIES IN NEARLY EVERY REGION OF THE WORLD AND THAT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH IS DEDICATED TO UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES, FREQUENTLY APPLIES THEM IN A HIGHLY SELECTIVE FASHION. AT A TIME WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS INCREASING, SO TOO IS THE NUMBER OF STATES WHERE FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOR ARE NOT OBSERVED. THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, FOUNDED AS IT IS ON A RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY LEGAL SYSTEM, IS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN AND COMMANDS OUR ATTENTION AND OUR CONDEMNATION.

UNITED STATES POLICY IS DEDICATED TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL AND IS OPPOSED TO VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHEREVER THEY MAY OCCUR. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO USE WHAT INFLUENCE WE HAVE TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS. TO THIS END, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ENFORCE RIGOROUSLY OUR COMPREHENSIVE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WE FIRST IMPOSED IN 1962 AND BROADENED IN 1963.

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WE ARE CONCERNED THAT UNLESS SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIETY ARE FORTHCOMING, THE VIOLENCE WILL INCREASE AND INEVITABLY DESTROY A RICH AND PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS. THIS WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

WE URGE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE DECISIONS NECESSARY TO DISMANTLE THE APARTHEID SYSTEM AND TO RESPOND

POSITIVELY TO THE URGENT NEED FOR GENUINE FREEDOM FOR
ALL ITS PEOPLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MIGHT JUST ADD ONE VERY BRIEF PERSONAL
NOT BECAUSE OF THE VERY MOVING CONCLUSION OF THE
STATEMENT WE HAVE JUST HEARD FROM THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE
FROM SINGAPORE. THIS IS IN THE NATURE OF A PEOPLE-TO-
PEOPLE STATEMENT NOT A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT ONE,
FOR I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT, BUT RATHER,
AS IS A TRADITION IN OUR COUNTRY, I'M A PRIVATE CITIZEN
OF THE UNITED STATES AND ONE OF THREE PERSONS CHOSEN BY
THE PRESIDENT AND THE SENATE TO BE A PUBLIC MEMBER
OF OUR DELEGATION. AND I, TOO, HAVE LISTENED TO THE GREAT
DEBATE IN THIS ASSEMBLY FOR NEARLY A WEEK, AND FROM
TIME TO TIME I'VE HEARD AN INFLECTION IN THE VOICE OF WISE
SPEAKERS THAT I HAVE FOUND TROUBLING AND PERHAPS THAT
UNEASE THAT I FELT WAS MOST PROPERLY PUT IN CONTEXT BY
THE LAST SPEAKER WHEN HE CONCLUDED BY QUOTING FROM THAT
INSPIRING NOVEL BY ALAN PATON, CRY, THE BELOVED COUNTRY,
WHEN THE BLACK PRIEST, AND MAY I JUST QUOTE THOSE BEAUTIFUL
LINES AGAIN, SAID, YOU WILL RECALL:

"I HAVE ONE GREAT FEAR IN MY HEART, THAT ONE DAY WHEN
THEY TURN TO LOVING, THEY WILL FIND WE ARE TURNED
TO HATING."

AND SO, MR. PRESIDENT, MY PERSONAL PRAYER IS THAT WE MAY
SOMEHOW SEEK JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT IN TURN
LOSING OUR SENSE OF HUMANITY OR OUR CAPACITY TO LOVE.
THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. UNQTE.
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